

Art Unit: 3677

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric Hyman on 01-12-2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1, lines 19-20, delete "...the upper half-shell";

Claim 13, line 11, before "central" insert --blind--; and

Claim 13, line 12, "being blind,".

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: The tag punch will be generically shown. Applicant is advised that if a reference numeral is applied to the punch in the drawings, then the reference numeral must also be added to the corresponding structure recited in the specification. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-7068.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on (571) 272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William L. Miller/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677